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[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/73/L.25 and A/73/L.25/Add.1)*]

73/13. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/5 of 8 October 1999, by which it granted observer status to the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization, as well as its previous resolutions on cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization, including resolution 71/18 of 21 November 2016,

Recalling also that one of the purposes of the United Nations is to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social or humanitarian nature,

Recalling further the Articles of the Charter of the United Nations that encourage activities through regional cooperation for the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", and its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,

Recalling its Declaration on the Enhancement of Cooperation between the United Nations and Regional Arrangements or Agencies in the Maintenance of International Peace and Security of 9 December 1994,[1]

Recognizing that any dispute or conflict in the region impedes cooperation, and stressing the need to solve such a dispute or conflict on the basis of the norms and principles of international law,

[1] Resolution 49/57, annex.

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Convinced that the strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations and other organizations contributes to the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to resolution 71/18,[2]

1. *Recalls* the declaration adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the States members of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization on the occasion of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary Summit of the Organization, held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 22 May 2017;

2. *Reiterates* the conviction that multilateral economic cooperation contributes to enhancing peace, stability and security to the benefit of the wider Black Sea area;

3. *Welcomes* the ongoing commitment of the States members of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization to the implementation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Agenda, "Towards an enhanced Black Sea Economic Cooperation Partnership", endorsed by the Heads of State and Government of the States members of the Organization at its Twentieth Anniversary Summit, held in Istanbul, in which the member States had reiterated their commitment to enhancing the economic mission and the project-oriented vision of the Organization;

4. *Also welcomes* the joint statement of the Speakers of the Parliaments of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation member States on the occasion of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary Summit of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, held in Istanbul on 16 May 2018;

5. *Values* the activities of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization aimed at strengthening regional cooperation in such fields as energy, including renewable energy and energy efficiency, transport, institutional renewal and good governance, trade and economic development, banking and finance, environmental protection, sustainable development and entrepreneurship, communications, agriculture and agro-industry, health care and pharmaceutics, culture, education, youth and sports, tourism, science and technology, exchange of statistical data and economic information, collaboration among customs authorities and combating organized crime and trafficking in drugs, weapons and radioactive material, acts of terrorism and illegal migration and in other related spheres;

6. *Welcomes* the reform efforts within the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization aimed at increasing its efficiency and effectiveness;

7. *Also welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization to elaborate and implement concrete joint regional projects, particularly in the field of transport, which will contribute to the development of Euro-Asian transport links, and recalls, within this framework, the Memorandum of Understanding for the Coordinated Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway, the Memorandum of Understanding on the Development of Motorways of the Sea in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization Region and the Memorandum of Understanding on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization Region;

8. *Further welcomes* the adoption of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization Green Energy Strategy, which affords States members of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization new opportunities with regard to the elaboration and adoption of their green energy policies and the strengthening of regional

[2] See A/73/328-S/2018/592, sect. II.

cooperation in the field of green energy, endorsed at the thirty-eighth meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization, held in Yerevan on 27 June 2018;

9. *Notes* the activities undertaken by the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization Green Energy Network with regard to exchanging information, sharing experiences and good practices, elaborating and implementing regional energy efficiency projects and promoting investments in green energy in the Black Sea region;

10. *Also notes* the activities aimed at developing effective policies and concrete measures to support the sustainable development of small and medium-sized enterprises in the Black Sea region and to help them to improve their quality performance through, inter alia, the assistance of the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank;

11. *Calls for* greater cooperation between the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization and international financial institutions, and welcomes the contacts between the Organization and the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the Silk Road Fund and other financial institutions with a view to exploring the possibility of co-financing projects in the wider Black Sea area that are economically prudent and within their respective mandates;

12. *Acknowledges* the interest of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization in contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[3] bearing in mind the importance of the regional and subregional dimensions, regional economic integration and interconnectivity in sustainable development and that regional and subregional frameworks can facilitate the effective translation of sustainable development policies into concrete action at the national level;

13. *Notes* the ongoing contributions of the related bodies of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization, namely, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Business Council, the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank and the International Centre for Black Sea Studies, to the strengthening of multifaceted regional cooperation in the region;

14. *Welcomes* the ongoing commitment of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization to promoting fruitful cooperation with the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, in particular to developing practical and goal-oriented projects, in areas of common interest, as reiterated in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Agenda, "Towards an Enhanced Black Sea Economic Cooperation Partnership", endorsed at the Twentieth Anniversary Summit of the Organization;

15. *Also welcomes* the ongoing cooperation between the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization and the United Nations Development Programme, the Economic Commission for Europe, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Health Organization, the World Tourism Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as well as the working contacts of the Black Sea Economic

[3] Resolution 70/1.

Cooperation Organization with the World Bank aimed at promoting sustainable development in the Black Sea region;

16. *Further welcomes* the efforts of the Permanent International Secretariat of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization in strengthening its project-oriented dimension by further enhancing the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Project Development Fund and the capacities of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Project Management Unit;

17. *Takes note* of the establishment of the Black Sea Project Promotion Facility and the effective start of its operations in support of regional projects in the fields of renewable energy, energy efficiency, green technologies, the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, the advancement of the knowledge economy, capacity-building and the promotion of the export potential of the States members of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization;

18. *Notes* the willingness of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization to continue to implement sustainable development strategies based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs and economic activities and to encourage measures to rehabilitate, protect and preserve the environment in the Black Sea region, and in this regard welcomes its cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme and the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution;

19. *Also notes* the ongoing cooperation between the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and within this framework welcomes the positive results of the ongoing joint project to strengthen the criminal justice response to trafficking in persons in the Black Sea region;

20. *Welcomes* the ongoing multifaceted and fruitful cooperation between the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization and the Economic Commission for Europe, especially in the area of transport, within the framework of the Cooperation Agreement signed by the two organizations;

21. *Encourages* the full implementation of the Cooperation Agreement between the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme of 20 February 2002 and the Relationship Agreement between the Organization and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization;

22. *Notes* that the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization is a member of the Group of Friends of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, and welcomes the commitment to broaden cooperation in the accomplishment of the mission of the Alliance, as established by the Secretary-General, and in the promotion of understanding and reconciliation among cultures, globally and regionally, as set out in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, which was approved in Bucharest and signed in Baku;

23. *Appreciates* the endeavours of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization in enhancing project-oriented cooperation with the European Union in a balanced and mutually beneficial way;

24. *Takes note* of the cooperation established between the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization and other regional organizations and initiatives, and in this regard encourages the further development of cooperation with the regional organizations and integration unions concerned, in particular those in Eastern Europe and Central Asia;

25. *Invites* the Secretary-General to strengthen dialogue with the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization with a view to promoting cooperation and coordination between the secretariats of the two organizations;

26. *Invites* the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system to cooperate with the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization in order to continue joint projects and programmes with the Organization and its related bodies for the achievement of their objectives;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

28. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fifth session, under the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations", the sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization".

39th plenary meeting
26 November 2018